

My dear Mr. May.

Bristol May 26th - 1848 to June 9th Friday.

Your last letter of the 3rd Inst^l by the Acadia, reached me on the 18th and a few days afterwards one from F. Douglass dated Rochester 4th May in which he says that he will pay the balance of the sum I transmitted to him to the Liberator & Stand and Agents. He must have mistaken my request to send the money to you. I was not aware of having even mentioned to him how the balance was to be applied. I am sorry to see in the last N. Star a complaint of deficient funds, & a call for help. - ^{Twenty} Copies of the French translation of F. D. M. have been sent me from Paris, and Miss Parker, who is now in the Isle of Alderney, has requested me to have one handsomely bound for a present to Douglass. The other copies have been distributed to those who were most liberal in subscribing for the printing, & adding one, which I think I shall reserve for you. The present state of France is most unpropitious for attention to American Slavery. The condition of that country is lamentable: how blood-hed is to be avoided I know not! How truly some of your papers expose the dishonesty & hypocrisy of the Americans sympathizing with the French in robbing themselves of despotism. What was Louis Philippe's despotism to theirs! Events on the Continent appear to be attacking this country more & more to our monarchical form of ~~free~~ government. Gradual reforms have must take place. the violent, mischievous party (there is none respectable enough to be termed revolutionary) is ascendant to be most contemptible in their numbers & their aims. And even in Ireland the discontent is not so extensive as the activity of the more violent party would lead distant countries to suppose. That there are real grievances there, and a most indolent, uncivilized, & intractable population to ~~deceive~~ ^{manage}, none will deny; the best friends of Ireland, & the most noble & liberal minds, see full well the difficulty of dealing with Irish evils. Our friend R. D. Webb, who is anything

but an aristocrat, or lover of oppression, says that the separation of Ireland from England would be an act of the greatest cruelty: that 1,500,000 of the best portion of the human skin would be ruined by such measures as the Separators call for.

F. D. in his letter speaks, in reply to some remarks of mine, of "his differing somewhat from the "Old Organ." "Loc" in his estimate of "those engaged in the Liberty Party" who show ^{that} an honest desire to free "the negro race from Slavery", and while differing from them as to plans of proceeding, he could not but respect their honesty & treat them as "friends". This is a point upon which he would meet with much sympathy here, and I think it would be difficult to remove the impression here that your party are too severe upon those who do not go with you in all your A. S. views.

I doubt if the Boston Unitⁿ Min^{is}ters will consider the Irish Cause as inoffensive "travelling". The very blunders in it as to the A. S. zeal of the Unitⁿ body will serve to reproach them; & surely the hints about the free colored people, the urging them on to action, and the censure on those who abuse the Abolitionists without "doing it better" themselves, will not be very acceptable. The Irish Min^{is}ters know very little of the subject: I am much pleased that their Reply is so good as it is.

My knowledge of the particular occasion calling for the late "Anti-Slavery Convention" ^{intention} prevents me from forming any judgment of the fitness, or of probable usefulness, of that movement.

Here such a convention would do nothing but damage the reputation of the promoters, and would destroy their usefulness in any philanthropic purposes in which they were engaged, - I mean if the leaders of the latter, were to be the chief movers of the Anti-Slavery ^{dissemination} ^{perhaps} ^{leading} [?] I presume that even with you it will be the cause of ^{some} ^{leading} [?] back who might be getting disposed to unite with you. I expect too that friends here, seeing the names of all those whom they know of as connected with the management of the "American A. S. Soc^y" appended to the "Anti-Slavery Convention" will suppose the Abolitionists are

2 necessarily associated with movements of which they would disapprove -
I have no desire to see such a discussion brought forward here: it would
I think do little good, some harm, & excite extensive prejudices -
I assent in the views generally of your Anti-Sabbatarians, but have
no ^{wish} ~~desire~~ to weaken in myself or in others, inducements to withdraw
my thoughts from the two engrossing pursuits of this life, or to discourage
the ~~idea~~ ^{of} devising reasonable opportunities for cherishing religion as
sentiments: that ~~all~~ this cannot be effected without indulging in
superstitious notions or sanctioning hypocritical observances,
I have yet to learn.

I have read carefully the article in ^{the} 2^d No. of the "Universalist",
of which you say Mr. Garrison likes. It does not please me. The question
appears to my mind superficially treated, & neither clearly nor fairly.
Adopting the style of other writings on metaphysical & moral subjects, which I
see in Anti-Slavery papers, in settling that if the Deity intended so, & so,
such & such a course would have been followed, he blinks the main
point, - what end it is due to the historical records of Christ's life? To say
of some one circumstance only of it, - his resurrection. Is that fact
of fiction? If the latter he was bound to show that the event itself was
opposed more contrary to the "order of Nature" than the extensive neg-
ation of the fact in which under the difficulties with which it was sur-
rounded.

The writer would do well to study a very interesting
essay in the 2^d Vol. of Hartens' "Genealogies of the Evidences", the "Additional
Note" ^D. He would find there as much anti-superstitionism as
the pious Christian "Nationalist" could desire, with very sound
argument, (as I think at least) in favor of the Evidences revelation.

Since beginning this the Lib. for May 5th & 12th have come. Mr. Garrison
I see is not ~~as~~ so severe as I expected upon the Irish Unit. They will find it very
difficult to comprehend why their best efforts according to the amount of know-
ledge they possess, should not be cordially welcomed by American Abolitionists.

I have been much amused by a description of your party quoted from
some other paper in the Lib. of May (-from the "Chr. Reflector") I recently on reading
some of H. C. Wright's effusions I am half inclined to see the applicability of the
sentence commencing with "these men live in a world of their own." Mr. Wright
talks much about religion, & has little ^{to} ~~concern~~ ^{to} ~~concern~~ for those who view any of its pre-

quirisements differently from his way of seeing them. Does he expect an undisputed submission to his ^{superior} ~~dictator~~ when he writes in his letter to Anti-Slavery about the death of Mr. Garrison's daughter that "God could not intend children to die in infancy & childhood"? Children do so die, & still believe the Universe is under the government of God.

In my mind the dogmatic assertion of what God intends, & what he would have done if such & such doctrines were true, is far more offensive than the ^{presumptuous} ~~exaggerated~~ declaration of the necessity to salvation of belief in particular theological articles, for the assertion of such views, at least believe they are already expressed in Scripture.

In my last letter I said in answer to your inquiry, that I had endeavored to read Wangeline: I have now completed the undertaking.

Many of the descriptions are pretty, perhaps ^{I should} ~~some would~~ ^{call} ~~any~~ ^{poetic} ~~cal~~, but if they are poetic I was able to get on it with it pleasantly when I ceased to consider it as intended for a poem, and read it as prose. If an "harmonic arrangement of syllables" be as ^{statement of Poetry} ~~as~~ the unmeasured, & unmeasurable lines of Wangeline (altho each is distinguished by a Capital letter,) do not, in my view, ^{make} ~~constitute~~ it a poem. I must confess, ^{my} ~~the~~ surprise at the sort with of poetry with which some modern writers in America seem pleased & satisfied!

The quotations I have met with in Brooks's Daily Monitor, Lives & more, & others, appear to me often extremely poor, unpoetical & quite unworthy of their position. I can seldom get on with the poetry in the "Liberator".

I have perused, with much interest, every word of the debate in the Congressional Senate, in consequence of Mr. Hale's motion. I think the feeling is on the increase among your Abolition friends here of the undecidableness of the "American A. S. Society" showing such unavailing hostility to words those who do not work in their way. Surely Mr. Hale is doing good service by the course he has ~~so~~ ^{expressing} taken. Why not acknowledge this, & thank him for it, even while regretting that he did not go farther in his condemnation of Slavery? The "National Era" may be but a mouth & water A. S. print for a Northern State, but being published at Washington, it must be doing some good. The Editor certainly has run great risks, & ought to be commended for doing what he has done. In the late Proceedings of the "Am. & For. A. S. Socy" though some of them are absurd, as that of giving bibles to the Slaves, and, ^{as I think} ~~even~~ ^{as I think} ~~as I think~~

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the approbation has to be won upon the "Liberty Party," still it would be very difficult to persuade English Abolitionists, that on any of their ~~former~~ ^{present} efforts are not doing much good, & ~~are~~ ^{are} not in the right direction? But I am sure as usual in any consideration of this subject, that American minds need a goad which would occasion nothing but opposition & rebellion if applied to Englishmen.

How lamentable is the state of things in France: nothing is yet done towards a fixed Government. Commencing as the Prov. Gov. did with such a step as giving money to workmen without any regard to the labour in return, what but mischief could ensue! It will be well if the revolution do not terminate in some sort of despotism. I can easily conceive the duty of sympathizing with the French, on obtaining their emancipation, rather a bitter pill to some of your Southern Aristocrats! How long we shall entirely escape the contagion of Continental violence I know not. The condition of Ireland is serious, — & ~~also~~ ^{as} hopeless as far as any remedy is obvious — But I find I have touched on these topics in the former part of my letter begun a fortnight ago.

I send you the appeal for Douglass circulated by his friend Miss Griffith. I have written to her freely on the subject, that an American paper ought not to depend upon English help for its success, & unless it can be made apparent that the support of the N. Star is important to the A. S. cause, she must not expect, however much F. D. is personally appreciated, that after so much has been done for him by Bristol friends, that they will be willing to help him out of difficulties brought on by the failure of business speculation. Claims on this score for our help, we have too many of among our own friends & connections. (Lady Anne has no idea of the good Lady, whom I know not personally, has no idea of Anti-Slavery beyond F. D. He is the cause, & the cause F. D.)

I am very desirous of contributing £1 towards the fund for defending Capt. Laynes. May I ask you to be my banker on the occasion, & advance the money (20/-)? I will not forget the date.

I purpose attending next week the anniversary of the "West. & Ind. Unit. Association." After last year's battle, I do not expect the Report will

allude to America - I shall however watch the proceedings - Dr. Hutton is coming to clear views on the Slavery question. I think he will have all the "fortifiers" & yet retain the "suaviter" From what you say of James Haughton's letter, I am inclined to hope he is becoming less offensively violent & dogmatic to words those who do not wear his spectacles.

I have just received my copy of Chapman's 3rd. edition of Dr. Channing's Life. ~~My handwriting is very faint~~ I cannot get access to the oil painting of Dr. C. which I purchased of Mrs. Chapman on behalf of the Bazaar, but the engraving in the 2^d Vol. seems taken from it. Can you tell me if "Gambardella" is now

Send Mr. Estlin,
 Receives in Col. Brewster
 A-S. Almanacs for 1839, 40,
 & any others.

And July (9) 1838,

Samuel May Esq
 Boston,
 U. States.

For Rev. J. S.
 May.

Painted by Flagg (a comrade of Dr. C.) - died recently.
 This picture was copied by W. H. C. as good a portrait of him while as any assistant - looked as he did during the last years of his life.

miss many Chapman's
 Gambardella is in possession of J. Phillips - he can tell you where he is - in the country about 10 yrs ago - G. is now in London.

My daughter has succeeded me to London, etc. etc. etc. she would have copied her father's portrait as she is for some time. Her father & mother having, & believe me his early years J. W. Allen